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**Ardavanis**

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(54) **VESSEL WITH STINGER HANDLING SYSTEM**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
A pipelay vessel has a crane having a base with a hollow interior and a stinger handling system for handling a stinger extending from the side of the vessel. The stinger handling system has a link extending out through an opening from the hollow interior towards the side of the vessel for connection to the stinger. The link is arranged to transmit both tensile and compressive loading. A jack structure, located within the hollow interior of the crane base is mounted to extend and retract the link from within the crane base to raise and lower the stinger. A universal coupling may be provided for self aligning the link to the stinger in the horizontal plane.

**20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**

